

### **REMARKS**

Claims 5, 6, 7 and 11 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 5-7, 9 and 11 are pending in the application.

The courtesy of Supervisory Examiner Devon Kramer and Examiner Patrick Hamo at the interview with Applicant's undersigned attorney on December 6, 2007 is greatly acknowledged. The substance of the interview is accurately set forth in the Interview Summary issued by the Examiner at the conclusion of the interview and in the remarks which follow.

As stated in the Interview Summary, the absence of an end part exposed to gas atmosphere remote from the drive side in Bez U.S. Patent No. 5,482,443 was pointed out and the Examiner agreed that the comment in the last Office Action at the bottom of page 2 that Bez disclosed an end of the piston 42 on the side remote from the drive side exposed to a gas atmosphere was incorrect.

At the interview, the Examiners also referred to the lack of clarity of the limitation at the end of claim 11 drawn to the flow rates of liquid discharged and stored.

Proposed amendments to claims 5, 6, 7 and 11 were also discussed to make the terminology in all the claims consistent with each other.

By this amendment, claim 11 has been amended to refer to the upstream-side plunger pump as a first pump and the downstream-side plunger pump as a second pump, with the first and second pumps being connected fluidly in series.

At the interview, the last portion of claim 11 which reads "...to pressurize the liquid in the upstream-side plunger pump to make a flow rate of the liquid discharged from the upstream-side plunger pump greater than a flow rate of the liquid stored in the downstream-side plunger pump" was discussed.

The Examiners raised the following two points regarding this last limitation:

1. The flow rate should be the same in the pump since the amount drawn in by the first pump should be the same as the amount discharged from the second pump.

2. How can liquid stored in the downstream-side plunger pump have a flow rate since it is stationary when it is stored.

With respect to the first point above, the Specification at page 20, lines 15 and 16 specifically states that “the total flow rate is always constant”. Moreover, as shown in Fig. 5, the total flow rate remains constant over time. See also the discussion in the Specification on page 20, line 9 through page 21, line 22.

With respect to the second point above, claim 11 is correct in reciting “...to make a flow rate of the liquid discharged from the upstream-side plunger pump greater than a flow rate of liquid stored in the downstream-side plunger pump”.

This language in claim 11 needs to be recited to make continuously the flow rate discharged from the liquid chromatograph pump constant (at a predetermined value for the chromatograph measurement) irrespective of a backward movement of the downstream-side plunger pump for storing or taking the liquid into the downstream-side plunger pump so that the liquid is discharged from the downstream-side plunger pump during a forward movement of the downstream-side plunger pump as shown clearly in Fig. 5 of the application. A chromatograph measurement needs the continuously constant flow rate discharge from the liquid chromatograph pump.

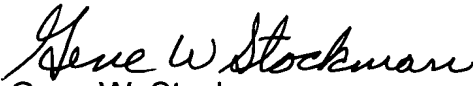
For the additional reasons set forth above, it is again submitted that claims 5-7, 9 and 11 are patentable.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. 500.43232X00).

Respectfully submitted,

  
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